

LOCAL LAW

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A Local Law Amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, Adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, Adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and Amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to Regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

Council Member GARRABRANT, Shane A.

Council Member KIMBALL, Robert O.

Council Member OSBORNE Jr, Douglas E.

Council Member SHOEN, Benjamin P.

Mayor PIERCE, Sarah V.C..

Total

YEA	NAY
X	
X	
X	
X	
X	
5	0

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

A Local Law amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements For Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters.

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown currently regulates the operation of bicycles on sidewalks pursuant to §91-17 of the Code of the City of Watertown and would like to clarify the regulations of bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters; and

WHEREAS, New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242 establishes operational requirements for bicycles with electric assist; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to amend §91-17 to ensure that bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters are clearly included within the existing prohibition on sidewalk riding and are enforceable under local law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds it necessary to require the use of protective headgear while riding a bicycle with electric assist and electric scooters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds it necessary to incorporate certain operating requirements for bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters as set forth in New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242 other relevant provisions of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that establishing a clear and consistent penalty structure will promote public safety and support enforcement efforts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, as follows:

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A Local Law Amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, Adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, Adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and Amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to Regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

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Total

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Section 1. That §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks of the Code of the City of Watertown is amended as follows:

§91-17: Riding on Sidewalks

1. No person shall ride a bicycle, a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, or an electric scooter, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §114-E upon any sidewalk within the City of Watertown, except where otherwise permitted by law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, persons under the age of 12 shall be permitted to ride a bicycle upon any sidewalks within the City of Watertown.
2. Penalties.
Any person who operates a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, in violation of §91-17 of this Code shall be subject to the following penalties:
 - First offense: \$150
 - Second or subsequent offense within 18 months: \$300
 Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2. That §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters of the Code of the City of Watertown is added as follows:

§91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

1. No person shall ride a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242 or an electric scooter, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §114-E, unless such person is wearing a helmet. For the purpose of this section, wearing a helmet means having a properly fitted helmet fixed securely on the head of such wearer with helmet straps securely fastened.
2. Penalties.

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A Local Law Amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, Adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, Adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and Amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to Regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

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Total

YEA	NAY
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X	
X	
X	
X	
5	0

Any person who operates a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, or an electric scooter, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §114-E in violation of §91-25 of this Code shall be subject to the following penalties:

- First offense: \$150
- Second or subsequent offense within 18 months: \$300

Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 3. That §91-25.1: Other Requirement for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters of the Code of the City of Watertown is added as follows:

§91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

Except as otherwise provided herein, bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters operated within the City of Watertown shall comply with the applicable provisions of New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, and, any other relevant provisions of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Section 4. That §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the City of Watertown is amended as follows:

§91-26: Penalties for Offenses

Unless otherwise provided herein, every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished as set forth in §1800 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen